

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 13-14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 18 depicts the polylinker sequences of the IBI 31 plasmid (pIBI 31-BH5-2) ~~(SEQ ID NOS:22-24)~~ which includes an oligomer containing a lac promoter region (SEQ ID NO: 22), an oligomer including the 10 base pair insert (SEQ ID NO:23) and an oligomer containing the T3 start signal (SEQ ID NO:24) and the BlueScript II plasmid construct (pBSII//HCV) ~~(SEQ ID NOS:25-27)~~ which includes an oligomer containing the LAC PROMOTER and T3 promoter region (SEQ ID NO:25), an oligomer including a 10 base pair insert (SEQ ID NO:26) and an oligomer containing the T7 start signal (SEQ ID NO:27).